

REMARKS

In response to the pending Office Action, Applicants have amended claims 12-21 so as to address the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, fully comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, and would be readily understood by those of skill in the art when read in light of the specification. It is noted that the meaning of the term “electron mediator” is detailed throughout the specification, see, for example, paragraph [0010] of the published application. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 fully complies with 35 U.S.C. § 112. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully requested that the pending rejection of the claims based on 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

Turning to the rejection based on prior art, the earliest possible effective filing date of USP Pub. No. 2008/0118399 to Fleming is December 13, 2004 based on the filing of US Provisional Application No. 60/635,721 (assuming the provisional application provides support for the portions of Fleming relied upon in formulating the rejection). However, the earliest effective filing date of the instant application is February 4, 2004 based on a claim of priority to JP 2004-028618, which was filed on February 4, 2004 in Japan. Applicants have enclosed herewith a certified translation of this priority document so as to perfect the claim of priority. As such, Fleming is not valid prior art to the instant application, and therefore the rejections based on Fleming must be withdrawn.

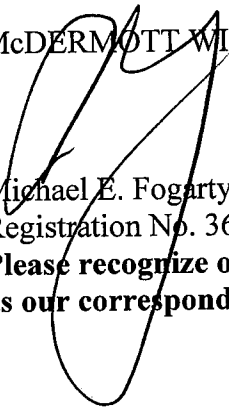
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's

amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Michael E. Fogarty
Registration No. 36,139

**Please recognize our Customer No. 53080
as our correspondence address.**

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF:rp
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: October 16, 2009

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